

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 38-39, 41, 49-51 and 53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 10, 45, 46, 52 and 54 have been amended. New claims 56-58 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-37, 40, 42-48 and 52-58 are pending.

Allowable subject matter

Most of the claims, i.e., claims 2-37, 40 and 42-48, were allowed.

Claim objections

Claims 3, 10, 45, 46, 52, 53 and 55 were objected to only for informalities. The claims were amended in a minor way to correct these informalities.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 52-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,222,044 to Tsujimoto (“Tsujimoto”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,307,315 to Oowaki et al. (“Oowaki”). The base independent claim 52 was amended to include a feature from claim 3, which should make it allowable also. Because claims 53-55 depend from claim 52, they should also be allowable.

New claims 56-58

New claims 56-58, based on features of FIG. 14, have been added, and are believed to be allowable.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 9, 2007

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